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# Congress of the United States
## Committee on International Relations

House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

April 24, 1978

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**ACTION**
**is assigned to**
EA

The Honorable Cyrus R. Vance
Secretary of State
Department of State
Washington, D. C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I have just learned some disturbing news about the health of Mr. Kim Dae Jung, the opposition party presidential candidate in the 1971 election in the Republic of Korea. Mr. Kim is serving a sentence of 5 years for signing a declaration calling for the restoration of democracy in Korea. Of the eighteen people convicted in this case Mr. Kim is the only one who has not been released. In December 1977 Mr. Kim was transfered from the prison at Chinju, Korea to the Seoul National University Hospital in Seoul because of his poor health.

On a recent trip to Japan, Reverend Charles Song of San Francisco telephoned Mrs. Kim to inquire about her husband's condition. According to Mrs. Kim both of her husband's legs are swollen and have taken on an unnatural color. She said that they are being urged to have surgery performed by government designated surgeons. The Kims, understandably nervous about having an operation performed by government designated physicians, asked to be allowed to select their own doctors, but the government refused to allow them to do so. As a result the Kims are refusing to have the surgery and are requesting that Mr. Kim be transfered back to prison since he is not receiving the treatment he needs.

Since this situation may threaten Mr. Kim's life, I would appreciate it if the Department would look into it at once and make appropriate representation to the Korean Government.

Your kind attention to this matter will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,

Donald M. Fraser, Chairman
Subcommittee on International Organizations

cc: Rev. Song
Mrs. Kim Dae Jung

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
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